

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3, and 8-13 have been cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 2, 4, and 5 were previously cancelled. Independent claims 6 and 7 are currently being prosecuted, and each has been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that 6 has been allowed.

Acknowledgement Of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner acknowledged has acknowledged the IDS filed on April 19, 2005.

Claims Objections

Objected-to claim 8 has been cancelled.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of copending Application No. 10/767,056. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, the Applicants are herewith submitting a

Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on the present application which would extend beyond the expiration of any patent which issues from U.S. Application No. 10/767,056 Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested. Independent claim 7 should now be in condition for allowance

§ 103 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over CN 2031615 in view of Doubrava et al. (U.S. 6,797,033) and Tani et al. (U.S. 6,457,475). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, claims 1, 3, and 8-13 have been cancelled. Therefore this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen at (703) 208-4030 in the Washington, D.C. area.

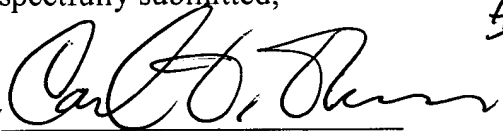
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Amendment filed June 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2006

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Art Unit: 1731
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: June 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer